84.003256.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of: |) | |
|--|---|------------------|
| TAKEHIKO NAKAI | Examiner: Leonidas Boutsikaris Group Art Unit: 2872 : | |
| Application No.: 09/960,283 | | |
| Filed: September 24, 2001 |) : | |
| For: DIFFRACTIVE OPTICAL ELEMENT AND OPTICAL SYSTEM HAVING |) | 1 20 2004 |
| THE SAME Mail Stop RCE |) | January 20, 2004 |
| Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | | |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being submitted herewith, Applicant's respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claim amendments are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2. The Remarks begin at page 8.

| I hereby certify that this corresponder | ice is being deposited with the |
|--|---------------------------------|
| United States Postal Service as first-clas | ss mail in an envelope addresse |
| to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Bo | x 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 |
| 1450 on | |
| January 20, 20 | 04 |
| (Date of Depos | sit) |
| • | , |
| PETER G. THURLOW, | Reg. No. 47,138 |
| (Name of Attorney for | Applicant) |
| O+ 11/ | |
| Icla Viltuelas | January 20, 2004 |
| Signature | Date of Signature |
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